

ACCESS

TO THE GREAT SALT LAKE

How to Get There and What You'll See

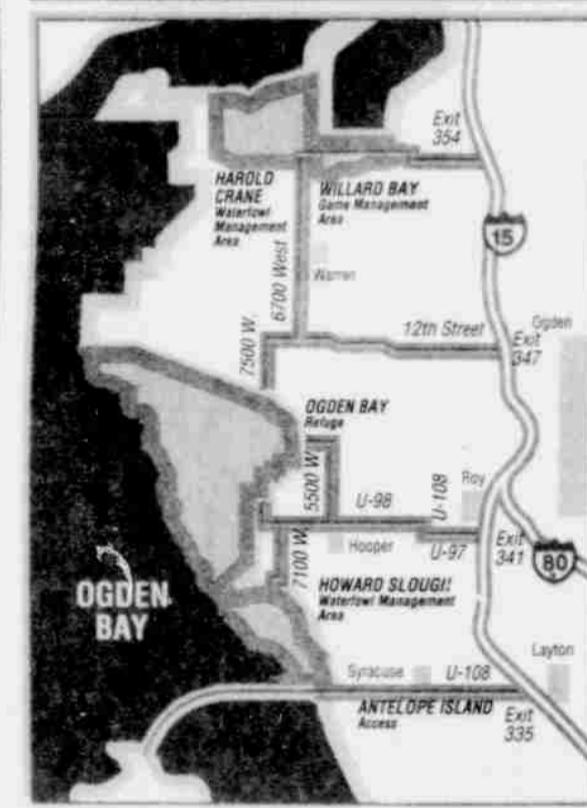
NORTHERN SHORES



SALT CREEK WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
North Access: Off I-15 (exit 379) and west of the town of Elwood for 5 miles.
South Access: Off I-15 onto the junction with U-83, then 8 miles west of Corinne.
Turn north on a gravel county road to the Salt Creek sign at Compton's Knoll.

PUBLIC SHOOTING GROUNDS WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
Turn west off US-89 in Brigham City onto Forest Street just north of the refuge sign.
Travel about 15 miles. There is a 12-mile auto-loop.

CENTRAL SHORES



WILLARD BAY GAME MANAGEMENT AREA
Off I-15, 15 miles north of Ogden at exit 354 then west for 2.5 miles.

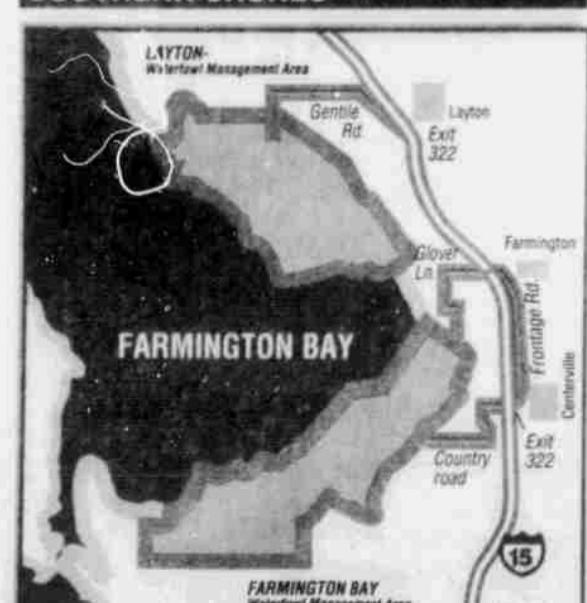
HAROLD CRANE WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
North Access: Off I-15, 15 miles north of Ogden at exit 354, then west for 5 miles.
South Access: Off I-15, then west on Ogden's 12th Street (exit 247) to 7800 West in Warren. Then turn north and drive to the gate.

OGDEN RAY REFUGE
North Access: Off I-15, then west on Ogden's 12th Street (exit 347) to 7800 West. Then turn south and drive 2 miles to the gate.
South Access: Off I-15 at Roy (exit 347) and turn west on U-97. Drive 2 miles to the end of the road, then turn north on U-108 for one tenth of a mile. Go west to Hooper on U-98. Continue west to 7800 West. Turn north and go 1 mile. South Access (Weber Delta): Same as Headquarters access until you get to 5500 West on U-98. Then turn north and go 3 miles to gate.

HOWARD SLOUGH WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
Off I-15 at Roy (exit 347) and turn west on U-97. Drive 2 miles to the end of the road, then turn north on U-108 for one tenth of a mile. Go west to Hooper on U-98. Continue west to 7800 West. Turn south and continue south and east for about 2 miles to the entrance.

ANTELOPE ISLAND ACCESS
Off I-15 at Layton (exit 335), then west on U-108 to the island.

SOUTHERN SHORES



LAYTON WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
Off I-15 at south Layton (exit 322). Go left to the center of town. Continue west on Gentle Road for about 8 miles, past three radio towers on the left. Take the dirt road that turns south. The sign on the gate reads, "Motorized vehicle restricted area." Drive to the parking lot which is open from Oct. 1 to Jan. 30. At other times park outside the gate. Access is restricted during breeding season.

FARMINGTON BAY WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA
North Access: Off I-15 at Centerville (exit 322). Go right, then immediately left onto the Frontage Road that parallels the freeway. Go just over 4 miles to Glover Lane; take it over the freeway. Go a little over 1 mile to the power poles. Go left on a dirt road to sign marking the entrance.
South Access: Off I-15 at the Centerville exit and west. Go south and west on the country road beyond the landfill to the parking area.

By Tom Wharton
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Roads to the Great Salt Lake lead to huge marshes filled with birds, mammals and insects. Or to abandoned west desert towns with graveyards that speak for the pioneers and railroaders who carved a living from an unforgiving land. It is easy to find Great Salt Lake State Park off Interstate 80.

But you need a map and good directions to find stunning wildlife sanctuaries or places such as Hogup Cave, inhabited by man as early as 6,400 B.C. Today The Salt Lake Tribune gives you a guide to the Great Salt Lake's parks, refuges and public lands:

LOCOMOTIVE SPRINGS: This remote, spring-fed marsh is located in one of the most arid parts of Utah. In 1931, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a series of dikes - some constructed with wood planks - to control water levels in shallow ponds.

Trout planted during the winter offer fishers a short season; carp rule the rest of the year. Salt grass thickets shelter small mammals and large numbers of ducks, geese and shorebirds. In summer, the marsh serves as one of the largest breeding areas in the western United States for the snowy plover, an increasingly rare shorebird.

This is the best place around the Great Salt Lake to view golden eagles, which arrive in late winter. In the spring, visitors watch ducks in their breeding plumage or see an occasional coyote sneaking through the grass. On weekdays in the fall, duck hunters are all but guaranteed a secluded spot.

SALT CREEK: Perhaps the best feature about this marsh is Compton's Knoll. It provides birders with a spectacular vista for viewing wildlife.

Bald eagles feed on carp in early spring. Ducks, geese, sandhill cranes and shorebirds sit on the shallow water in summer and fall. Tundra swans arrive in late fall, and red fox are often spotted in winter. A field near the marsh is planted with grain to feed Canada geese and sandhill cranes. Purchased from a private club in 1961, this spring-fed marsh is one of the few refuges not damaged by brine when the Great Salt Lake rose in the mid-1980s. It provides excellent hunting in the fall.

PUBLIC SHOOTING GROUNDS: As its name suggests, this marsh - the first publicly-owned and planned wetland nationwide - was purchased by the state in 1923 to accommodate hunters and offer habitat for wildlife. A series of nearly connected knolls allowed for easy development of a dike system, which enabled refuge managers to control water levels. These knolls also provide good viewing areas for bird watchers.

The Bureau of Land Management manages land west of the state refuge. That's where a peregrine breeding tower - off limits in the spring and summer - is located. The marsh is home to bald eagles in winter. Large numbers of geese and tundra swans can be viewed in the early winter - during and after the fall hunting season. In the spring, dozens of breeding redhead ducks use the wetland.

HOWARD SLOUGH: Utah's first peregrine falcon hack tower was constructed here. And this was the first tower west of the Mississippi River where breeding adult peregrines returned to hatch and raise their young. Though the tower is off limits during the spring breeding season, peregrines can be seen nearby. Development on this marsh began in 1958, making it one of the newest refuges on the lake. It consists of one large body of water and several smaller ponds.

Because it is near the Great Salt Lake, Howard is host to thousands of shorebirds. In the spring, the slough is an excellent place to see migrant and breeding populations of shorebirds such as long-billed dowitchers, avocets, stilts and willets. Ruddy ducks and cinnamon teal in their colorful breeding plumage also frequent the marsh. During the summer, redhead ducks and large concentrations of Wilson's phalaropes inhabit the area. Large numbers of scaup - a diving duck - use the marsh in fall.

OGDEN BAY: At more than 20,000 acres, this is the largest state-managed refuge on the Great Salt Lake. It is the nation's first project paid for by the Pittman-Robertson Act, which uses excise taxes from hunting equipment and sporting arms to develop wildlife habitat.

The refuge sits on the natural delta created by the Ogden and Weber rivers. Huge cottonwood trees provide winter perches for bald eagles and summer nesting sites for great blue herons, double-crested cormorants and snowy and cattle egrets. Ring-necked pheasants occupy grasses around the marsh.

Ogden Bay historically holds the largest concentration of tundra swans in the Great Salt Lake. Nationally, it ranks with Chesapeake Bay as a wintering site for these huge white birds, which can be hunted with special permits. During the summer, Wilson's phalaropes, black-necked stilts, avocets and black terns are abundant. Large concentrations of ducks and geese are found here in the fall, making the refuge one of lake's most popular hunting areas. Northern pintail, mallards, gadwalls and American wigeon are common.

FARMINGTON BAY: Surrounded by private duck clubs, this refuge will soon become one of the best places to learn the value of marshes. The Division of Wildlife Resources recently placed interpretive signs in the area, a visitor's center and boardwalks leading into the refuge are planned.

Farmington Bay is the wetland closest to Salt Lake City. Located on the old Jordan River delta, it is a good place to see northern harriers and bald eagles during the winter. In spring, the east end of the refuge hosts migrating birds such as the black-bellied plover, red knot and long-billed dowitcher. A large breeding population of California gulls resides there. In summer, this is an excellent area for viewing white-faced ibis, Franklin gulls, Wilson's phalaropes, avocets and stilts. In fall, Farmington Bay holds smaller sandpipers, cinnamon teal and redhead ducks.

Once a popular duck-hunting area, the refuge was devastated by flooding from the Great Salt Lake during the mid-1980s. It is slowly recovering.

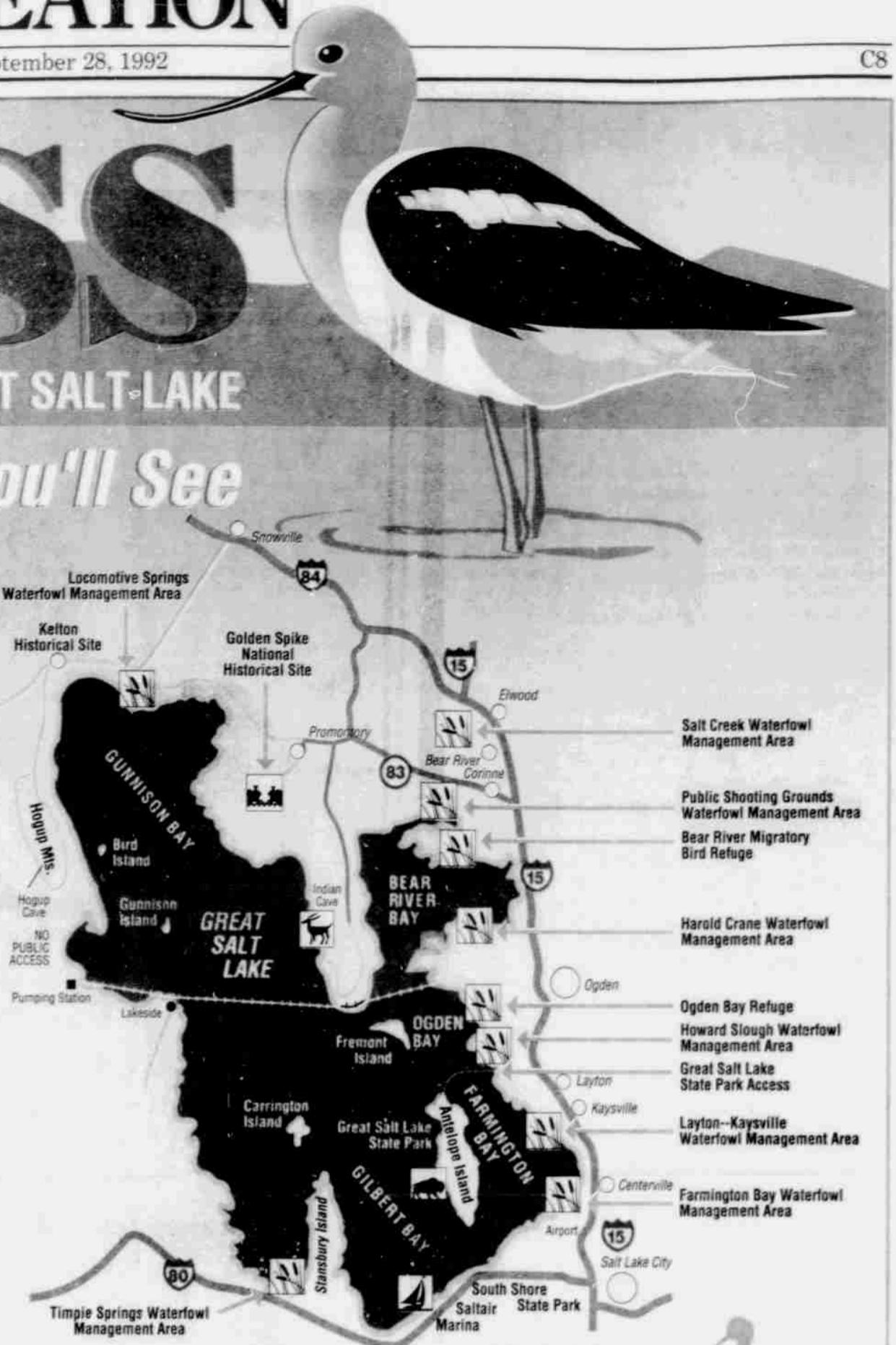
HAROLD CRANE: At this refuge, you can crawl over the Willard Bay dike and fish for catfish, crappie and walleye, or go west into the wetland and watch birds. Hikers can enjoy a nice half-day loop hike around the shallow ponds and natural mud flats that make this area an important shorebird haven.

In the spring, Harold Crane visitors can view snowy plovers, cinnamon teal and white-faced ibis. In the summer, peregrine falcons fly over. At least three pairs of this rare raptor breed and nest in nearby canyons. There also are redhead ducks and snowy egrets. Bald eagles frequent the area in winter.

Hunters hone their skills here on waterfowl and upland game species such as pheasants.

BEAR RIVER BIRD REFUGE: A 12-mile auto-tour drive is open year-round and leads to good views of this 65,000-acre refuge on the Bear River delta. The road also provides access for catfish enthusiasts, who congregate along the banks where the river pours into the refuge.

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it is the largest national refuge specifically set aside for waterfowl and shorebirds.



Botulism claims thousands of ducks in late summer and early fall, and scientists are searching for ways to stop those deaths. The refuge is famous for its research on this disease.

The lake's oldest and most famous duck-hunting clubs are adjacent to the federal refuge, adding to the immense acreage set aside for wildlife. This is a good place to see raptors during winter. Bald eagles, peregrine falcons, marsh hawks, short-eared owls and northern harriers can be seen. California gulls and double-crested cormorants forage on carp in the marshes. Snowy egrets and black-crowned night herons stalk the shallow waters. The refuge provides the best nesting areas for white-faced ibis on the Great Salt Lake. And it is a good place to view broods of Canada geese, mallards, ruddy ducks and western grebes. Pay close attention to the western grebes. These birds give their young rides on their backs. Long-billed dowitchers and Baird's and least sandpipers migrate through the refuge in the fall.

TIMPLE SPRINGS: This is the southernmost wetland near the lake, providing wildlife a refuge in the desert. Because water from the springs contains large amounts of salt, mostly salt-tolerant plants live here.

While mosquitoes own the marsh in summer and early fall, this is a splendid place for a winter walk. Hikers seldom see other people but likely will run across a short-eared owl, a peregrine falcon, skunk or red fox. A unique species of vole - being studied by the University of Utah - also lives here. In the summer, you can get close to waterfowl. Great blue herons and egrets inhabit the area in the fall. The refuge receives little hunting pressure.

LAYTON MARSH: This was the first Nature Conservancy-purchased piece of land in Utah. Because of that, it is mostly managed by nature, not by man. Natural fluctuations of the Great Salt Lake dictate the size of the refuge and the vegetation surrounding it.

This is an excellent place to see Canada geese. And the wetland is home to one of the largest remaining pheasant populations in Davis County. When the vegetation is in good shape, Layton Marsh is a major site for nesting white-faced ibis and Franklin gulls. When the lake floods and salt kills the vegetation, the marsh provides nesting and foraging areas for shorebirds.

A large population of black-necked stilts, American avocets, snowy plover and Canada geese all nest here. It is excellent summer habitat for staging Wilson's phalaropes, yellow-legged dowitchers and small sandpipers. Layton Marsh is one of the few places in Davis County where visitors can enjoy hearing and seeing sandhill cranes. In the fall, thousands of avocets and stilts stage here before beginning their fall migrations.

ANTELOPE ISLAND: This is the largest island in the Great Salt Lake - 28,022 acres. Before flooding closed the causeway to Antelope in 1983, some 450,000 visitors rode bicycles or drove cars here each year. The causeway is scheduled to reopen in September 1993, once again allowing visitation on the island's north side. The 2,000-acre park provides pristine white-sand beaches, a campground, picnic areas, overlooks and a series of hiking trails.

Ultimately, the entire island will be open to the public. Visitors will be permitted to walk through the oldest continuously inhabited home in Utah.

A large buffalo herd, chukars and a few mule deer roam on the grass-covered island. This is a good place to see the millions of brine flies and brine shrimp that play a big role in the lake's ecosystem. Birds also can be seen by island visitors.

GREAT SALT LAKE STATE PARK: This is the most-visited and best-known recreational area on the Great Salt Lake. Facilities include a sandy beach, open showers, modern rest rooms and picnic tables.

Because the lake is receding along the park's shallow beach, expect to walk several hundred yards before reaching the water's edge. And - depending on which way the wind is blowing - brace yourself for the stench of rotting brine flies.

The Salt Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau operates a small museum to help visitors understand the lake's human and natural history. A sailboat marina and boat ramp provide the lake's best boat-launching and mooring facilities. A small concession and souvenir stand serves tourists. Record flooding damaged the new Saltair resort in the 1980s. Its status is in doubt.

WEST SIDE OF GREAT SALT LAKE: The lake's western shoreline is a desolate, barren landscape of mud flats, salt flats and greasewood desert, stark in its isolation and stunning emptiness. Sizable portions of land, including the West Desert Pumping Station and Hill Field Bombing Range, are closed to

A YEAR WITH THE

Great Salt Lake

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• UNDER AUG.

Mark Knudsen, Graphics / The Salt Lake Tribune

the public. The Bureau of Land Management owns property around the northwest corner of the lake. But ownership claims make a map of the area look like a multicolored checkerboard, with BLM, the state and private land owners all staking out tracts.

Dirt-road access is available to Crocodile Mountain and the Hogup Mountain Range from Highway 30 near Snowville - or over a dirt road west of the Golden Spike National Historical Site along the old Transcontinental Railroad route. These roads are open to all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes. Hogup Cave, located on private land in the remote northwest corner of the Hogups, was inhabited by man from 6400 B.C. to 1800 A.D. Looking out of the large cave entrance onto the desert - where a small, life-giving spring provides a patch of green - reminds visitors of their small place in the universe.

Access to the tiny and abandoned railroad town of Wendor and the Silver Island Mountains is through Wendor. The Lakeside Mountains can be viewed by taking exit 62 toward Lakeside off Interstate 80. There is no public access to the Newfoundland Mountains.

A few words of warning about traveling in the west desert: Six-ply tires are needed because sharp rocks on the desert roads easily can pierce street tires. And even good maps don't show all the roads. Take lots of water, and let your friends or family know where you're going.

STANSBURY ISLAND: This southern island can be reached by driving across a causeway north of Grantsville. Pretty beaches and ancient Indian petroglyphs, mostly located on private land, have made this a popular place to visit. But BLM and a private landowner have been battling over the access road, making drives to the island uncertain. Check with BLM before setting out. Sailboats enjoy beaches on the island's north side - most of which are owned by the BLM.

WILLARD BAY STATE PARK: A large dike created this 9,900-acre freshwater arm of the Great Salt Lake. Boaters, campers and anglers enjoy recreation opportunities at two state park marinas on the northeast and southeast corners of the bay. Anglers go after crappie, catfish and walleye.

GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE: History was made when the Transcontinental Railroad was joined in this remote and isolated spot north of the Great Salt Lake on May 10, 1869. This National Park Service facility celebrates that great moment. Replicas of the two locomotives that met that day - the Jupiter and the U.P. 199 - chug, toot and belch steam on a portion of the reconstructed railroad track on summer days. A small museum and auditorium offer films and exhibits that explain the significance of the event.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Maps can be obtained from the state BLM office at 324 S. State St. in Salt Lake City, or the U.S. Geological Survey office at 125 S. State St. More detailed information on visiting BLM lands near the Great Salt Lake can be obtained at the Bureau of Land Management's Salt Lake District Office at 2370 S. 2300 West in Salt Lake City (phone 977-4300). Information on the state bird refuges can be obtained by calling the Division of Wildlife Resources at 538-4700 in Salt Lake City or that agency's Ogden office at 515 E. 5300 South (phone 479-5143). The Bear River Bird Refuge headquarters is located in Brigham City. For information, call 723-5887. For information on visiting the Golden Spike National Historic Site (phone 471-2209), write to P.O. Box 897, Brigham City 84302.

For information on Great Salt Lake State Park, call 533-4080. For information on Antelope Island State Park, call 451-3397 or 580-1043.

The Utah Travel Council at Council Hall (phone 538-1399), the Salt Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau at 130 S. West Temple (phone 521-2822), the Davis County Tourism Board at the county courthouse in Farmington (phone 451-3286), and the Golden Spike Empire at 2501 Wall Ave. in Ogden (phone 627-8288 or 1-800-255-8824) all offer literature and information on visiting the Great Salt Lake.